



BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1944

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

TOWN HALL,
BUCKINGHAM.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Buckingham.

GENTLEMEN.

In presenting my fourth Annual Report I have pleasure in stating that there has been no serious epidemic during the year 1944, and that the standard of health has been satisfactory. With the exception of one case of Diphtheria, the incidence of infectious disease was lower than in 1943.

There has been a slight decrease in population, which has not affected the number of inhabited houses, of which, inevitably, a shortage remains.

No change has taken place in the Clinic Services. The attendances at the Welfare Clinic have been satisfactory, and the percentage of children in the Borough who have been immunised against Diphtheria is high.

In May, 1944, the County Council approved a scheme for provision of Home Helps, operating through the County Nursing Federation.

There has been a substantial increase in the birth rate, with a corresponding decrease in the number of still births. It is gratifying to record that there has been no Maternal Mortality, which is a matter for congratulation to the General Practitioners and Midwives in the Borough.

I am much indebted to Mr. Stevens and also to Mr. Sear for their invaluable help in compiling this report.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) JANET CARFRAE RONALDSON,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Edin. Univ.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

A. Vital Statistics.

								1944.
Area ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6723a.
Registrar General's estimate of Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3949
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1118
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£22,300
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£91/1/2
Rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/6

						M.	F.	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	...	35	35	
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	1	75
Still Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

Deaths of infants under 1 year—

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes — — —

Buckingham Maternal Mortality — — —

Deaths of infants under 1 year — — —

Deaths from Measles — — —

Deaths from Whooping Cough — — —

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) — — —

Deaths from Diphtheria — — —

Principal Causes of Death—

						M.	F.	T.
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	11
Other circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Intra Cranial or Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Conj. Mal. birth in Infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Road Traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
All other causes	3	3	6
Nephritis	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	—	3	3

Totals	21	27	48
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B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mayor—LORD ADDINGTON.

Chairman—Alderman A. E. Busby.

Aldermen C. W. Cantell, F. Holton.

Councillors H. Cornwall, W. A. Griffiths, J. G. Denny, G. W. Downer, E. T. Hawes, Hon. F. S. Hubbard, W. S. Pringle, O. Rodwell, P. J. Small, S. G. Williams, T. H. Smith, L. W. Hull.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

JANET C. RONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edinburgh).

Sanitary Inspector.

GEORGE BELSON CHILVERS, F.I.S.E., Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements made with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service of the School of Pathology, Oxford, to perform pathological investigations continues.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES remain as heretofore.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME remains as heretofore.

5. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

(b) Orthopaedic Clinic.

(c) Diphtheria Clinic.

(d) Tuberculosis Clinic.

(e) Dental Clinic.

(f) Venereal Diseases arrangements.

6. HOSPITALS.

No change in the Hospitals serving this area has occurred since the last report.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

From Corporation's own Works.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No special work of Sewerage or Sewage Disposal has been carried out during the year. The land was cultivated and a man-gold crop raised. The chlorination of the sewage continues.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Great Ouse flows through the Borough and various complaints were dealt with by the Surveyor and the Great Ouse Catchment Board.

4. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary has been of service to the Borough and Rural District.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The bathing place in the river was in frequent use during the summer months.

6. FACTORIES.

No matter calls for special attention except that complaints of the smell from the Paint Works were again received.

7. SCHOOLS.

There is nothing special to report under this head.

D. Housing.

During 1944, negotiations were in progress as to the compulsory purchase of the land to be known as the Pightle-Overn Hill Site. Work on lay-out plans was carried out and plans were submitted to the necessary Authorities, although approval was with-held, pending revised lay-out. The necessary surveying was carried out and spot levels were taken over the whole of the site.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are three registered Dairies and 28 Cowsheds registered with the Borough Council.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Sanitary Inspector regularly inspects the meat at the Government Controlled Slaughter House. The following were condemned as a result of inspection :—

33 Beasts, 1 Calf, 12 Sheep, 6 Pigs and offals, comprising a total of 5371 pounds of meat and 2940 pounds of offal.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1944.

<i>Disease</i>						<i>Notified</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	7
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Deaths</i>			
M.	F.	M.	F.	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

<i>No. under 5 years</i>	<i>5 years and over but under 15.</i>	<i>Total</i>
53	11	64
82%	93%	

